GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:273
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
CIVILIANS KILLED/INJURED IN MINE BLAST
BHAN SINGH BHAURA;RATTAN LAL KATARIA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of civilians were either killed or injured due to mine blast in the border areas along Pakistan;

(b) if so, the number of persons killed/injured during last one year till date, State-wise and district-wise;

(c) the details of compensation paid to the victims or their families; and

(d) the measures taken by the Military to de-mine those areas and the time by which the entire border areas are likely to de-mine?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b) : The information is being collected from the State Governments concerned and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) A new scheme to provide Ex-gratia compensation for civilian land mine casualties has been introduced by the Ministry of Defence on 16th January, 2003. Under this scheme, the claims totalling a sum of Rs. 17.5 lakhs received so far, have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Defence for the victims of land mine blasts.

(d) Demining is an extremely hazardous and time consuming operation, which is undertaken in a systematic manner by resorting to a combination of manual, mechanical & explosive means and by adopting hundred percent safety precautions. Therefore, the exact time by which mined areas along our borders will be totally free from mines cannot be stated with any degree of certainty.